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Dear Mr. Yates:

I have been asked to respond to your October 11 letter to President Reagan urging him to raise human rights and the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg during his meeting with Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva this November.

The U.S. Government has consistently condemned Soviet persecution of human rights activists and members of religious and cultural minorities. Such measures are contrary to the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, and we have strongly called for Soviet compliance with their own undertakings in that agreement. In bilateral exchanges with the Soviets, we have made it unequivocally clear that their abuses of individual rights have a serious detrimental effect on US-USSR relations.

As you know, the President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

President Reagan has announced his intention to raise all subjects affecting U.S.-Soviet relations in his meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva. As we continue our preparations for the November meeting, we appreciate hearing your views.

If we can be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


John B. Baker, III
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable
Sidney R. Yates,
House of Representatives.

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